

1892

TORONTO, 9TH SEPTEMBER, 1892.

To the Graduates

Of the University of Toronto.

GENTLEMEN,

For some time prior to the Senate meeting of the 3rd of June, 1892, an organized attack upon me in respect of certain University matters appeared in a portion of the Press of Toronto. Personally I would have gladly replied to the charges through the same channel and at the earliest possible moment, but I felt that the best interests of the University would not warrant my embarking in a newspaper controversy begun in so uncharitable a spirit. Moreover, as an officer of the Senate, I considered my proper course would be to address myself on the first fitting occasion directly to that body.

This opportunity occurred at the meeting in question, on the following motion moved by Mr. Houston seconded by Professor Loudon, "That a special committee, consisting of Professor Galbraith, M. A. B. Aylesworth, Dr. J. J. MacLaren, Dr. J. H. Cameron, and the mover, be appointed to inquire into and report on the conveyance of two lots on College Street to the Trustees of the proposed Park Hospital, as set forth in the "Bursar's report, laid before the Senate at its meeting, held on the 20th April ult., and also to report whether it is expedient to take any steps with a view to the restoration of the said lots to the control of the University."

At this stage I, by leave from the Senate, read and delivered to the Senate a written statement, a copy of which is herewith enclosed.

The Rev. Dr. Burwash, Chancellor of Victoria University, then moved, seconded by Rev. Father Teefy, Superior of St. Michael's College, the following resolution:—

"That the Senate has heard with great satisfaction the explanations made by Mr. Mulock, touching the establishment of the Park Hospital, and the addition to the Biological Laboratory, and desires to place on record its appreciation of his action in connection therewith, and its continued confidence in him as Vice-Chancellor of this University."

After an amendment moved by Mr. Houston to this amendment was lost, the motion of Dr. Burwash was carried on the following division:

YEAS—Dr. O'Sullivan, Dr. Wilmott, President of Ontario College of Dentistry; Sir Daniel Wilson, President of the University of Toronto; Professor W. T. Aikins, Dean of the Medical Faculty; Professor R. Ramsay Wright, Mr. Barwick, Professor McFarlane, Rev. Dr. Dewart, Rev. Dr. Burwash, His Honor Judge Dean, Mr. A. H. Marsh, Dr. Larratt Smith, Professor J. H. Cameron, Mr. Moss, Q.C.; Mr. MacMurchy, The Hon. Mr. Justice Falconbridge, Professor Baker, Mr. King, Q.C.; Mr. Creelman, Rev. Dr. Carman, D.D.; The Hon. J. A. Boyd, Chancellor of Ontario; The Hon. Mr. Justice MacLennan, Rev. Father McBrady, Professor James Mills, Mr. Hoyles, Rev. Dr. Sheraton, Professor A. H. Wright, Rev. Dr. Reynar, Rev. Father Teefy.

NAYS—Professor Galbraith, Mr. Embree, Professor Hutton, Professor Ogden, Professor Loudon, Mr. Houston.

I may here state that the reports of Senate meetings are prepared for the Press under the directions of a committee, which decides what shall and what shall not be published, Professor Loudon and Mr. Houston being the members of the committee which had for some time prepared the Press reports. Being desirous that a full and fair report of the meeting in question should go to the Press, I attended at the Registrar's office on the following day when the report was being prepared under the directions of these two gentlemen.

I was greatly surprised then to learn that they refused to incorporate my letter to the Senate in the report for the Press, taking the ground that technically it was not part of the regular correspondence and therefore did not form part of the proceedings."

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Univ of Toronto
Nov - 1906

I reminded them of the public attack made upon me through the Press, and expressed the opinion that it was only fair that my defence should now without delay go to the Press. In view of the action of the majority of the Senate, I felt that it was only fair to those who had supported Dr. Burwash's motion, that the statements which I, in my communications had made to the Senate should be published, and I stated that the Senate would, I felt assured, approve of such publication. My appeal, however, was unsuccessful, both Professor Loudon and Mr. Houston refusing to allow the Registrar to include my letter in the report.

I expressed my regret at their allowing their action as representatives of the Senate to be apparently biased by private feeling, and added that in justice to myself and those members of the Senate who had supported me I should try to secure the publication of my letter.

In this attempt I was partially successful, two of our leading journals with a full knowledge of the facts having had the courtesy to publish it along with the other proceedings of the meeting.

Owing, however, to the partial nature of the publication, I learn that my letter has not reached all my fellow graduates, and, therefore, in case you may not have already read it, I send herewith a copy.

Feeling that extreme or unworthy language in the discussion of University affairs cannot but injure the University in the eyes of the public, I greatly deplore it that some of my critics have, I venture to suggest, failed to confine their observations within the limits of fair criticism. I trust, therefore, you will not disapprove of my having endeavoured to avoid a like error. Perhaps had I yielded to personal demands of some of my opponents some of those gentlemen would now be my strong supporters, but my duty towards the University was my first consideration. With no personal ends to serve I have endeavoured to promote the interests of the University as a whole, my anxiety for her welfare increasing with her expansion. But for this feeling I would long since have withdrawn from a position that for years has occupied a large part of my thoughts and time, to the great injury to my own personal affairs.

Whilst laying no claim to infallibility I trust that my fellow-graduates will recognize in my work an unselfish desire to promote the best interests of our Alma Mater,

I am,

Your obedient servant,

W. MULOCK.